

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02477 120943Z

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SUBJ: TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IRAN (TCI) EXPANISON
PROGRAM-INTERMIM REPORT

REF: A. USDOC 0402, B. 77 TEHRAN A-51

1. IRANIAN SIXTH PLAN, WHICH WAS TO HAVE GEGUN MARCH 78, INCLUDES DOLS 7.5 BILLION EXPANISON PROGRAM FOR TCI THROUGH MARCH 82, AND ADDITIONAL DOLS 7.5 BILLION (IN CURRENT PRICES) THROUGH MARCH 88. OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROGRAM, WHICH IS GOING FORWARD IN SPITE OF AMBIGUOUS SIXTH PLAN STATUS, IS TO PROVIDE THE COUNTRY AN INTEGRATED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

2. TELEPHONE: IRAN CURRENTLY HAS 800,000 PRIMARY TELEPHONE LINES, WHICH SHOULD INCREASE TO 2.2 MILLION IN 1983 AND 5 MILLION IN 1988. THE SYSTEM DEPENDS ON ELECTROMECHANICAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT ASSEMBLED LOCALLY, AND THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 1981. GTE AND OTHERS WILL THEN BEGIN TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL PRODUCTION WITH MORE ADVANCED ELECTRONIC EXCHANGES, AND INTERNATIONAL TENDER WILL LATER BE ISSUED FOR DIGITAL STORED PROGRAM EXCHANGES. ALL EXCHANGES ARE NOW ANALOG, BASED ON CCITT STANDARDS, BUT INTRODUCTION OF STORED PROGRAM UNIT WILL BEGIN CHANGE OVER TO DIGITAL.

3. CABLE: IN ADDITION TO LOCAL PRODUCTION OF LOW FREQUENCY CABLE,
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02477 120943Z

THERE ARE SEVERAL FOREIGN COMPANIES INSTALLING CABLE UNDER PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH TCI. NEW TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF INSULATED CABLE DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROGRAM. INSULATED CABLE IS NOT MADE IN IRAN AT PRESENT.

4. TELEX: RCA IS INSTALLING DOLS 18 MILLION TELEX SWITCHING CENTER IN TEHRAN TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR. TENDERS NOW BEING PREPARED

BY TCI FOR 9 SMALL ER CENTERS IN OTHER PROVINCES.

5. MICROWAVE: AFTER 1980, TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED FOR MICROWAVE DIGITAL CARRIER AND PULSE CODE MODULATION TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS.

6. DOMESTIC EARTH SATELLITE: PLAN CALLS FOR 2 DOMESTIC SATELLITES TO BE ON STATION BY 1982, WITH 3D SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED AT LATER DATE. 3 MAJOR TELEMETRY CONTROL STATIONS AND 440 RECEPTION-TRANSMISSION SUBSTATIONS WILL FOLLOW SAME TIMETABLE. ABOVE EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROCURED VIA INTERNATIONAL TENDER. LIMITED TENDER WILL BE ISSUED FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AMPLIFIER SYSTEM FOR SATELLITE SIGNALS.

7. INTELSAT-5: TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED DURING 1978 FOR INTELSAT RECEIVING STATION TO BE BUILT NEAR TEHRAN.

8. PABX: AT PRESENT, THERE ARE SOME 2,000 PABX UNITS IN IRAN, ALL IMPORTED. TCI WISHES TO FIND FOREIGN PARTNER FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF PABX UNITS, AND THIS WILL BE DONE BY INTERNATIONAL TENDER.

9. IGAT-II--PIPELINE MICROWAVE SYSTEM: NATIONAL IRANIAN GAS COMPANY RECENTLY AWARDED CONSULTING ENGINEERING CONTRACT TO CANADIAN FIRM HOYLES-NIBLICK FOR MICROWAVE SYSTEM ON 1,500 IGAT-II GAS PIPELINE. EQUIPMENT SALES WILL BE INTERNATIONAL TENDER.

10. MARKETING: AS MENTIONED REFTEL, ABII (SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH) IS QUOTE INTEGRATION CONTRACTOR UNQUOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 02477 120943Z

TO TCI FOR 10 YEAR EXPANSION PROGRAM. ITS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE PLANNING, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS. THROUGH ITS WESTERN ELECTRIC AFFILIATE, IT MAY BID ON SYSTEM COMPONENTS, BUT TCI IS AWARE OF LINK BETWEEN ABII AND WESTERN ELECTRIC AND HAS TAKEN STEPS TO INSURE THAT ALL BIDS RECEIVED EQUAL CONSIDERATION. OTHER LARGE US FIRMS SUCH AS ITT, RCA, GTE-SYLVANIA, FORD AEROSPACE, AS WELL AS MANY NON US FIRMS, ARE ACTIVE IN IRAN AND WILL COMPETE FOR ESTIMATED DOLS 10 BILLION IN CONTRACTS WHICH WILL BE LET UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

11. EMB IS ATTEMPTING TO PULL TOGETHER AVAILABLE INFO CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES, TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT TO BE BID, AND OTHER INFO WHICH WILL BE USEFUL TO SMALLER COMPANIES. WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE AIRGRAM UPDATING REFAIR AS SOON AS SUFFICIENT DATA AVAILABLE.
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